

Reilly, General Mills, Freeway, St. Louis River updates

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1 attachment (19 KB)

updated hot sites.docx;

Please review and then send to John Peterson.

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Issue: EPA Demands Improved Gradient Control at Reilly Tar & Chemical Superfund Site – St. Louis Park

Background/Status: This past February, EPA notified the responsible party (Vertellus Specialties Inc.) of a failure to perform the remedy at the Reilly Tar & Chemical Corp. (St. Louis Park Plant) Superfund site. The city of St. Louis Park is implementing the remedy for Vertellus under a consent decree with EPA and the state. EPA and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency officials believe the contaminated groundwater plume is inadequately monitored and is not being captured in the Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer. This is the major drinking water aquifer for St. Louis Park and surrounding communities. Contaminant concentrations are rising in public drinking water wells of neighboring Edina in this aquifer and have twice exceeded conservative warning levels in the CD. The levels in Edina wells remain far below MCLs. Affected drinking water wells in the city of St. Louis Park are being treated successfully.

After disapproving two inadequate gradient control and monitoring plans submitted by the city of St. Louis Park, on September 8, 2014, EPA and MPCA conditionally approved use of three existing wells as new monitoring wells to serve as early warning of any additional plume movement toward neighboring Edina and Hopkins. These wells will be sampled this fall. EPA and MPCA also notified the city that we have no objection to proposed increased pumping of two existing pumping wells, but that it had not been demonstrated that the proposed pumping would control the plume. EPA and MPCA specified the pumping locations that we believe will control the plume.

The city of St. Louis Park has also requested a modification of the consent decree to update the drinking water criteria. EPA agrees and is in the process of referring this matter as well as the gradient control matter to the Department of Justice. Since the Consent Decree was signed, EPA has developed new risk-based levels for several contaminants present at the site and Minnesota is also in the process of developing several new health-based levels for several contaminants.

Messages:

- EPA is working with the city of St. Louis Park to improve control of the groundwater plume to better protect neighboring communities of Edina and Hopkins.
- EPA officials believe that the groundwater plume from the Reilly Tar Superfund Site is not being adequately contained in the Prairie du Chien aquifer.

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Issue: Vapor Intrusion Mitigation Nears Completion at General Mills Site -- Minneapolis

Background/Status: In December 2013, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency notified the public that sub-slab sampling at the General Mills/Henkel Corp. Superfund site in Minneapolis showed contaminant concentrations in vapor that exceed health-based screening levels. Since then, General Mills has installed vapor mitigation systems for 176 houses under MPCA oversight, and is continuing to pursue access to approximately seven additional properties that likely require mitigation. In addition, General Mills and MPCA are continuing to sample at several apartment buildings and 11 houses outside of the mitigation area to further confirm the boundaries of the mitigation area, and are continuing to sample on-site commercial buildings that may require mitigation. MPCA has implemented an extensive community involvement plan. TCE contamination in groundwater is the cause of the vapor problem. EPA does not have a direct role in overseeing the actions since this is a state-lead site, but EPA does offer technical support when requested by MPCA. EPA is also assisting with MPCA's five-year review of the groundwater remedy.

Message:

- EPA provides technical assistance for the vapor mitigation ongoing at the General Mills Superfund site.
- The state oversees the work done by General Mills and conducts extensive community involvement.
- General Mills has installed vapor mitigation systems at 176 houses so far.

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Issue: EPA and MPCA Plan Path Forward for Freeway Landfill Superfund Site, Burnsville, Minnesota

Press Interest/Coverage: No further press interest to EPA. In June MPCA participated in an interview with a reporter from the Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR) about the Site; however it appears that an article was not published.

Background/Status: On June 12, EPA had a conference call with management of Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Closed Landfill Program (CLP) to discuss cleanup progress at the Freeway Landfill NPL Site. MPCA met with the City of Burnsville on June 25th to encourage them to record institutional controls at the landfill property. During the summer, MPCA has continued to coordinate with the City and with Dakota County to update them on efforts to improve groundwater and landfill gas monitoring at the site and to let them know that the window is closing for the landfill owner to enter the CLP. MPCA is continuing to concentrate on gaining compliance with a state Administrative Order issued in February 2014 that requires significantly expanded groundwater and landfill gas monitoring. MPCA currently anticipates that new wells will be in place by the end of October and that sampling will occur in November, with

the work overseen by MPCA. In addition, a planned upgrade to a nearby highway interchange may spur action by the site owner. MPCA's CLP is currently developing an updated schedule for all activities at the site. If MPCA does not achieve compliance with the Administrative Order, they may ask the legislature to un-qualify Freeway Landfill from the program. If the PRP refuses to enter the CLP, EPA will remove the Freeway Landfill from our current CLP agreement with MPCA and issue special notice letter to the landfill owner.

Message:

- EPA provides technical assistance to the state as needed for the Freeway Landfill site.
- The state is in the process of enforcing an Administrative Order to improve monitoring of groundwater and landfill gas at the site.
- The state is coordinating with the City of Burnsville and Dakota county on future plans for the site.

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Issue: Spirit Lake Sediment Cleanup, St. Louis River National Priorities List Site– Duluth

Background/Status: Work under the Great Lakes Legacy Act is progressing on a contaminated sediment feasibility study for the Spirit Lake portion of the St. Louis River Area of Concern. MPCA anticipates proposing a remedy to the public in early spring 2015. Sediment contaminated with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, metals, PCBs and dioxins/furans has contributed to multiple beneficial use impairments in the St. Louis River AOC. The feasibility study and remedial design will identify cleanup options that will ease the BUIs. U. S. Steel is the non-federal partner on the project. GLNPO and U. S. Steel are coordinating all activities with MPCA.

Spirit Lake is a portion of the St. Louis River that is part of the larger St. Louis River National Priorities List Site which encompasses a 400-acre portion of the river and nearly 550 acres adjacent to the river. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, under EPA oversight, manages the site which consists of several different operable units.

U.S. Steel, under MPCA and EPA oversight, is currently conducting a supplemental Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study to address concerns found at the U.S. Steel upland portion of the NPL Site during the most recent five- year review. MPCA is currently considering a flexible approach to remaining cleanup that incorporates a variety of future land uses, including potentially a 150-acre solar panel farm. Another 120-acre portion of the site is being investigated for reuse by the Duluth Port Authority.

Message:

- EPA supports the State of Minnesota in their work with U.S. Steel and other responsible

parties to address the St. Louis River Area of Concern and the St. Louis River Superfund site.

- A 120-acre portion of the U. S. Steel portion of the site has been proposed for redevelopment by the Duluth Port Authority.
- Cleanup of the Spirit Lakes portion of the site under GLLA could begin as soon as 2015.
- This GLLA project is important to tackle beneficial use impairments and delisting of the St. Louis River Area of Concern.

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